

# The AFCARS Report

Preliminary FY 2001 Estimates as of March 2003 (8)

## How many children were in foster care on September 30, 2001? 542,000

**SOURCE:** Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data submitted for the FY 2001, 10/1/00 through 9/30/01.

**NOTES:** Data from both the regular and revised submissions received by January 21, 2003 are included in the estimates. (See TAR 5 for a detailed discussion of the various estimation procedures that have been utilized.) Missing data are not used in the calculation of percentages. Some percentages do not total 100% and/or the estimated numbers do not add up to the total number in the category due to rounding.

### What were the ages of the children in foster care?

Mean Yrs	10.1	
Median Yrs	10.6	
Under 1 Yr	4%	22,957
1 - 5 Yrs	24%	130,857
6 - 10 Yrs	24%	127,711
11 - 15 Yrs	30%	160,419
16 - 18 Yrs	17%	89,632
19 or more Yrs	2%	10,424

### What were the placement settings of children in foster care?

Pre-Adoptive Home	4%	20,289
Foster Family Home (Relative)	24%	130,869
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	48%	260,384
Group Home	8%	43,084
Institution	10%	56,509
Supervised Independent Living	1%	5,068
Runaway	2%	9,112
Trial Home Visit	3%	16,685

### What were the lengths of stay in foster care?

Mean Months	33	
Median Months	19	
Less than 1 Month	4%	22,512
1 - 5 Months	17%	91,533
6 - 11 Months	15%	82,935
12 - 17 Months	11%	60,915
18 - 23 Months	9%	46,144
24 - 29 Months	7%	38,340
30 - 35 Months	5%	29,233
3 - 4 Yrs	15%	79,171
5 Yrs or More	17%	91,217

### What were the case goals of the children in foster care?

Reunify with Parent(s) or Principal Caretaker(s)	44%	241,051
Live with Other Relative(s)	5%	26,555
Adoption	22%	116,653
Long Term Foster Care	8%	45,792
Emancipation	6%	32,309
Guardianship	3%	17,624
Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	11%	62,014

# **Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2001 (continued)**

## **What was the race/ethnicity of the children in foster care?**

AI/AN Non-Hispanic	2%	10,106
Asian Non-Hispanic	1%	3,649
Black Non-Hispanic	38%	204,973
Hawaiian/PI Non-Hispanic	0%	1,551
Hispanic	17%	89,785
White Non-Hispanic	37%	203,222
UnKnown/Unable to Determine	3%	17,235
Two or More Races Non-Hispanic	2%	11,479

**NOTE:** Using U.S. Bureau of the Census standards, children of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Beginning in FY 2000, children could be identified with more than one race designation.

## **What was the gender of the children in foster care?**

Male	52%	283,854
Female	48%	258,146

# **How many children entered foster care during FY 2001? 290,000**

## **What were the ages of the children who entered care during FY 2001?**

Mean Yrs	8.6	
Median Yrs	8.7	
Under 1 Yr	13%	38,786
1 - 5 Yrs	25%	72,927
6 - 10 Yrs	21%	61,242
11 - 15 Yrs	29%	84,558
16 - 18 Yrs	11%	32,261
19 or more Yrs	0%	227

## **What was the race/ethnicity of the children who entered care during FY 2001?**

AI/AN Non-Hispanic	3%	7,364
Asian Non-Hispanic	1%	2,925
Black Non-Hispanic	28%	81,118
Hawaiian/PI Non-Hispanic	0%	1,125
Hispanic	16%	46,574
White Non-Hispanic	46%	134,773
UnKnown/Unable to Determine	3%	9,079
Two or More Races Non-Hispanic	2%	7,042

**NOTE:** Using U.S. Bureau of the Census standards, children of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Beginning in FY 2000, children could be identified with more than one race designation.

## How many children exited foster care during FY 2001? 263,000

### What were the ages of the children who exited care during FY 2001?

Mean Yrs	10.1	
Median Yrs	10.2	
Less than 1 Yr	4%	10,923
1 - 5 Yrs	27%	70,395
6 - 10 Yrs	23%	59,544
11 - 15 Yrs	24%	63,881
16 - 18 Yrs	20%	53,253
19 or more Yrs	2%	5,005

### What were the lengths of stay of the children who exited foster care during FY 2001?

Mean Months	22.1	
Median Months	11.8	
Less than 1 Month	19%	50,300
1 - 5 Months	17%	44,969
6 - 11 Months	14%	37,707
12 - 17 Months	11%	29,270
18 - 23 Months	8%	20,833
24 - 29 Months	6%	15,234
30 - 35 Months	5%	12,146
3 - 4 Yrs	11%	28,604
5 or More Yrs	9%	23,936

### What was the race/ethnicity of the children who exited care during FY 2001?

AI/AN Non-Hispanic	2%	6,544
Asian Non-Hispanic	1%	2,689
Black Non-Hispanic	30%	79,308
Hawaiian/PI Non-Hispanic	0%	1,046
Hispanic	15%	40,346
White Non-Hispanic	45%	117,377
UnKnown/Unable to Determine	4%	9,602
Two or More Races Non-Hispanic	2%	6,087

**NOTE:** Using U.S. Bureau of the Census standards, children of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Beginning in FY 2000, children could be identified with more than one race designation.

### What were the outcomes for the children exiting foster care during FY 2001?

Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	57%	148,606
Living with Other Relative(s)	10%	26,084
Adoption	18%	46,668
Emancipation	7%	19,008
Guardianship	3%	8,969
Transfer to Another Agency	3%	7,918
Runaway	2%	5,219
Death of Child	0%	528

**NOTE:** Deaths are attributable to a variety of causes including medical conditions, accidents and homicide.

## How many children were waiting to be adopted on September 30, 2001? 126,000

**NOTES:** Waiting children are identified as children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. Children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the estimate.

### What is the gender distribution of the waiting children?

Male	53%	66,175
Female	47%	59,825

### How old were the waiting children when they were removed from their parents or caretakers?

Mean Yrs	4.7	
Median Yrs	4.0	
Less than 1Yr	26%	33,052
1-5 Yrs	38%	48,026
6-10 Yrs	27%	34,144
11-15 Yrs	8%	10,515
16-18 Yrs	0%	263

### How many months have the waiting children been in continuous foster care?

Mean Months	44	
Median Months	35	
Less than 1 Month	1%	725
1-5 Months	4%	4,946
6-11 Months	8%	9,567
12-17 Months	10%	12,889
18 -23 Months	11%	13,420
24-29 Months	10%	13,194
30-35 Months	8%	10,692
36-59 Months	24%	30,503
60 or more Months	24%	30,064

### What is the racial/ethnic distribution of the waiting children?

AI/AN Non-Hispanic	2%	2,146
Asian Non-Hispanic	0%	484
Black Non-Hispanic	45%	56,306
Hawaiian/PI Non-Hispanic	0%	400
Hispanic	12%	15,253
White Non-Hispanic	34%	42,913
UnKnown/Unable to Determine	4%	5,602
Two or More Races Non-Hispanic	2%	2,895

**NOTE:** Using U.S. Bureau of the Census standards, children of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Beginning in FY 2000, children could be identified with more than one race designation.

### How old were the children on September 30, 2001?

Mean Yrs	8.3	
Median Yrs	8.3	
Less than 1Yr	3%	4,206
1-5 Yrs	32%	40,848
6-10 Yrs	32%	40,648
11-15 Yrs	28%	34,724
16-18 Yrs	4%	5,573

### Where were the waiting children living on September 30, 2001?

Pre-Adoptive Home	12%	15,141
Foster Family Home (Relative)	19%	24,247
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	59%	73,992
Group Home	3%	4,087
Institution	6%	7,638
Supervised Independent Living	0%	94
Runaway	0%	437
Trial Home Visit	0%	364

**How many children in foster care had their parental rights terminated for all living parents?  
65,000**

**As of September 30, 2001, how many months had elapsed since the parental rights of these foster children were terminated?**

Mean Months	24
Median Months	15

**How many children were adopted from the public foster care system in FY 2001? 50,000**

**SOURCE:** Adoptions can be reported to the AFCARS adoption database at any time after the adoption has been finalized. TAR 8 includes adoptions finalized in FY 2001 reported in regular and revised submissions by December 12, 2002.

**NOTES:** The number of adoptions reported here do not equal the number of adoption discharges reported under foster care exits because the adoptions reported here include adoptions of some children who were not in foster care but received other support from the public agency. In addition, states have historically under reported adoption discharges. In contrast, states tend to more accurately report the adoptions to the AFCARS adoption database because those are the adoptions used to calculate adoption incentive awards. Some percentages do not total 100% and/or the estimated numbers do not add up to the total number in the category due to rounding.

**What is the gender distribution of the children adopted from the public foster care system?**

Male	50%	25,117
Female	50%	24,883

**How old were the children when they were adopted from the public foster care system?**

Mean Yrs	6.9
Median Yrs	6.3

Less than 1 Yr	2%	993
1-5 Yrs	46%	22,942
6-10 Yrs	34%	16,759
11-15 Yrs	16%	8,075
16-18 Yrs	2%	1,181
19 or more Yrs	0%	51

**What proportion of the children adopted are receiving an adoption subsidy?**

Yes	88%	44,013
No	12%	5,987

**What is the racial/ethnic distribution of the children adopted from the public foster care system?**

AI/AN Non-Hispanic	1%	715
Asian Non-Hispanic	1%	260
Black Non-Hispanic	35%	17,606
Hawaiian/PI Non-Hispanic	0%	164
Hispanic	16%	8,033
White Non-Hispanic	38%	19,139
UnKnown/Unable to Determine	5%	2,583
Two or More Races Non-Hispanic	3%	1,502

**NOTE:** Using U.S. Bureau of the Census standards, children of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Beginning in FY 2000, children could be identified with more than one race designation.

**How many months did it take after termination of parental rights for the children to be adopted?**

Mean Months	16	
Median Months	12	
Less than 1 Month	3%	1,749
1-5 Months	17%	8,683
6-11 Months	28%	13,845
12-17 Months	20%	9,954
18-23 Months	12%	6,153
24-29 Months	7%	3,722
30-35 Months	4%	2,027
3-4 Yrs	6%	2,922
5 or more Yrs	2%	945

**Children Adopted in FY 2001 (Continued)**

**What is the family structure of the child's adoptive family?**

Married Couple	67%	33,251
Unmarried Couple	1%	664
Single Female	30%	14,975
Single Male	2%	1,110

**What was the relationship of the adoptive parents to the child prior to the adoption?**

Non-Relative	17%	8,699
Foster Parent	59%	29,501
Step-Parent	0%	131
Other Relative	23%	11,670